RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

July 2010 Socio-economic Series 10-014

2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Issue 8—Profile of the Housing Conditions of Seniors with Disabilities

INTRODUCTION

This *Research Highlight* is one in a series of highlights that examine the housing conditions and characteristics of Canadians with disabilities. It focuses on seniors (aged 65 years and older) with disabilities. Data used in this highlight are from the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (2001 PALS). PALS is Canada's principal national survey focusing on people with disabilities. It provides information on the prevalence and severity of disability, on the use of and unmet need for supports, and on participation in various everyday activities.

DEFINITIONS

Population with Disabilities Examined in this Highlight

The 2001 PALS includes seniors who are living in private dwellings but excludes residents of long-term care facilities, residential care facilities or other types of collective dwellings that are typically home to seniors and persons with disabilities. In the 2001 Census, there were 327,670 residents within these facilities and the majority were aged 65 years and older.[1]

The data presented here differs from the first issue in this series, which was based on the 2001 Census, because of some key differences between the 2001 Census and 2001 PALS with respect to identifying people with disabilities. The 2001 PALS identifies an estimated 330,000 fewer people aged 65 years and older with a disability than did the 2001 Census. This is because some individuals who responded "Yes" to the Census disability questions responded "No" to the more detailed questions on the 2001 PALS related to specific types of disabilities. It is also due to differences in the geographic coverage — the 2001 Census includes the people living in the territories and in First Nations communities but these areas and their populations are excluded from the 2001 PALS.

Disability in the 2001 PALS

The 2001 PALS asks about specific domains of functioning in which one may experience ongoing difficulties doing activities and identifies 10 specific types of disabilities (as well as an "unknown"[2] category):

- Mobility
- Agility
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking/communicating
- Developmental
- Learning
- Memory

[1] 2001 Census: Collective Dwellings (96F0030X2001004)

[2] People who answer "Yes" to one of the questions on general limitations and "No" to the specific disability-type questions are classified as having "nature of disability unknown."

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- Emotional/psychological
- Pain

The severity of an individual's disability is assessed in the 2001 PALS based on the frequency and intensity of the limitations. For example, a person who has no difficulty walking and climbing stairs but who cannot stand in line for more than twenty minutes would have a mild mobility-related disability. A person who can move around only via a wheelchair would have a severe mobility-related disability.

PALS collects information on the types of special housing features that people with disabilities use or need to assist them. These include, for example, ramps and lifts that assist with entering and leaving the dwelling, as well as grab bars, bath lifts and widened hallways or doorways that facilitate mobility within the home.

Core Housing Need

Households[3] are considered to be in core housing need if they do not live in and do not have sufficient income to access acceptable housing. The term "acceptable housing" refers to housing that is in adequate physical condition, of suitable size and affordable.

- Adequate dwellings are those reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs.
- Suitable dwellings have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements.[4]
- Affordable dwellings cost less than 30% of before-tax household income.[5]

A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability or affordability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing.

When discussing core housing need, household data exclude farm, band and reserve households (for which shelter costs are not collected by the Census). It also excludes households with shelter costs that exceed their income and households with incomes of zero or less, since housing conditions cannot be assessed for these households.

FINDINGS

General Characteristics of Persons with Disabilities Aged 65 Years and Older

Geography

There are 1,423,200 persons with disabilities who are 65 years and older, resulting in a national disability rate of 41% (see Table 1).

This rate varies among the provinces, with Quebec recording the lowest rate (at 29%)[6] and Nova Scotia recording the highest (at 50%).

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[3] Refers to all private households. People living in collective dwellings (see Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Cat. No. 92-378-XIE, pages 190-193) are excluded by definition.

[4] According to the NOS, enough bedrooms means one bedroom for each cohabitation adult couple; unattached household member 18 years of age and over; same-sex pair of children under age 18; and additional boy or girl in the family, unless there are two opposite-sex siblings under 5 years of age, in which case they are expected to share a bedroom. A household of one individual can occupy a bachelor unit (i.e., a unit with no bedroom).

[5] Shelter costs include the following:

- For renters, rent and payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services; and
- For owners, mortgage payments (principal and interest), property taxes, and any condominium fees, along with payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services. Costs associated with maintenance and repairs are not considered part of shelter costs.

Income data collected by the 2001 Census refer to the calendar year preceding the Census, while shelter cost data give expenses for the current year.

[6] A lower rate in Quebec has been observed in all of the disability surveys conducted by Statistics Canada.

Table 1 Number of persons aged 65 years and older, by disability status, Canada and the provinces, 2001

	Population aged 65 years and older			
	Total	Without disabilities	With disabilities	Disability rate
CANADA	3,464,100	2,040,900	1,423,200	41.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	57,800	35,300	22,500	38.9%
Prince Edward Island	16,400	9,100	7,300	44.5%
Nova Scotia	116,600	58,800	57,800	49.6%
New Brunswick	89,900	49,300	40,600	45.2%
Quebec	834,700	596,900	237,800	28.5%
Ontario	1,349,800	738,000	611,800	45.3%
Manitoba	131,300	70,200	61,100	46.5%
Saskatchewan	118,000	62,700	55,300	46.9%
Alberta	264,600	146,900	117,700	44.5%
British Columbia	485,100	273,600	211,500	43.6%

NOTE: Includes the population living in private non-farm, non-band, non-reserve households with household income greater than zero and with an average shelter cost-to-income ratio (STIRs) of less than 100%.
Source: 2001 PALS

Age and Gender

The rate of disability increases with age and is higher for females than for males for each of the three senior age groups: 65 to 74 years, 75 to 84 years and 85 years and older. The disability rate increases from 32% for people aged 65 to 74 years to 72% for people aged 85 years and older (see Table 2).

Among seniors aged 65 or older, the average age of women is higher than that of men and this holds true for both females with and without disabilities. For females, the average age among those with disabilities is 77 years and for those without disabilities, 73 years. Among males, the average age is 75 for those with disabilities and 72 years for those without disabilities.

Table 2 Number and percent of persons aged 65 years and older, by disability status, age group and sex, 2001

	Population aged 65 years and older								
	with disabilities			without disabilities			Disability rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
65 and older	589,500	833,700	1,423,200	922,500	1,118,500	2,040,900	39.0%	42.7%	41.1%
65 - 74	287,900	347,200	635,100	653,300	715,200	1,368,500	30.6%	32.7%	31.7%
75 - 84	236,800	352,400	589,200	242,800	352,700	595,400	49.4%	50.0%	49.7%
85 and older	64,800	134,100	198,900	26,400	50,600	77,000	71.1%	72.6%	72.1%

Source: 2001 PALS

Living Arrangements

About 32% of seniors with disabilities live alone, compared to 27% of seniors without disabilities (see Table 3). Some 10% of seniors with disabilities live with others in a non-family household, and 8% live in lone parent families.

As a senior, the probability of living alone increases with age and this holds true regardless of disability status. About 24% of seniors aged 65 to 74 with disabilities live alone, compared to 21% of those without disabilities. Among seniors aged 85 years and older, 47% of those with disabilities live alone and 54% of those without disabilities live alone.

Table 3 Number of persons aged 65 years and older, by living arrangements and disability status, by age group

Living Arrangements	Persons aged 65 years and older			
	with disabilities		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
	Persons aged 65 and older			
All types of living arrangements	1,423,200	100.0%	2,040,900	100.0%
Living alone	450,800	31.7%	544,000	26.7%
Non family person, living with others	139,800	9.8%	118,500	5.8%
Lone parent family	106,700	7.5%	83,900	4.1%
Family without children	630,700	44.3%	1,132,000	55.5%
Family with children	95,300	6.7%	162,600	8.0%
	Persons aged 65 to 74 years			
All types of living arrangements	635,100	100.0%	1,368,500	100.0%
Living alone	150,300	23.7%	287,000	21.0%
Non family person, living with others	43,100	6.8%	73,900	5.4%
Lone parent family	40,100	6.3%	47,000	3.4%
Family without children	339,200	53.4%	826,400	60.4%
Family with children	62,400	9.8%	134,100	9.8%
	Persons aged 75 to 84 years			
All types of living arrangements	589,200	100.0%	595,400	100.0%
Living alone	208,100	35.3%	215,600	36.2%
Non family person, living with others	61,000	10.4%	36,000	6.0%
Lone parent family	47,500	8.1%	31,100	5.2%
Family without children	242,600	41.2%	285,600	48.0%
Family with children	30,000	5.1%	27,200	4.6%
	Persons aged 85 years and older			
All types of living arrangements	198,900	100.0%	77,000	100.0%
Living alone	92,400	46.5%	41,400	53.8%
Non family person, living with others	35,700	17.9%	8,500	11.0%
Lone parent family	19,000	9.6%	5,800	7.5%
Family without children	48,900	24.6%	20,000	26.0%
Family with children	2,900	1.5%	1,200	1.6%
Source: 2001 PALS				

Nature of Disabilities

The 2001 PALS includes three ways to look at disability characteristics: type(s) of disability that an individual reports, number of types of disabilities that an individual reports, and a severity measure that includes the nature and extent of the individual's disability across all the types of disabilities reported by the individual.

The three most commonly reported types of disability among seniors aged 65 and older are mobility (78%), agility (72%) and pain (61%) (see Table 4).

As a senior increases in age, the number of disabilities reported also tends to increase. About 17% of seniors with disabilities report only one type of disability, and the proportion reporting only one type of disability decreases as age increases, from 19% for those aged 65 to 74 to 13% for those 85 and older (see Table 5). By contrast, 11% of seniors who are aged 65 to 74 years report five of more types of disabilities, increasing to 24% among seniors aged 85 years and older.

Seniors with disabilities who are male are more likely (at 19%) to report only one type of disability than females (at 16%).

Table 4 Number and percent of persons aged 65 years and older, by type of disability, 2001

	Number	(%)*
All types of disabilities	1,423,200	100.0%
Mobility	1,110,800	78.0%
Agility	1,028,300	72.3%
Pain	873,200	61.4%
Hearing	561,600	39.5%
Seeing	300,500	21.1%
Memory	151,300	10.6%
Speaking/Communicating	121,200	8.5%
Emotional/Psychological	92,200	6.5%
Learning	72,600	5.1%
Developmental	11,000	0.8%
Unknown	42,100	3.0%

*Percentages add to more than 100% because people can report more than one disability.
Source: 2001 PALS

Table 5 Number and percent of persons aged 65 years and older, by number of disabilities reported and age group, 2001

Number of disabilities	Number				Percent			
	65-74	75-84	85 and older	65 and older	65-74	75-84	85 and older	65 and older
Total	635,100	589,200	198,900	1,423,200	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
1	121,200	99,500	25,800	246,500	19.1%	16.9%	13.0%	17.3%
2	121,700	106,500	31,700	259,800	19.2%	18.1%	15.9%	18.3%
3	204,200	167,800	47,900	419,900	32.2%	28.5%	24.1%	29.5%
4	118,700	117,800	46,200	282,700	18.7%	20.0%	23.2%	19.9%
5	44,200	53,300	34,000	131,500	7.0%	9.0%	17.1%	9.2%
6	13,100	27,100	8,300	48,500	2.1%	4.6%	4.2%	3.4%
7	6,900	9,600	4,100	20,600	1.1%	1.6%	2.1%	1.4%
8 or more	5,000	7,800	1,000	13,600	0.8%	1.3%	0.5%	1.0%

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 6 Number of persons aged 65 years and older with disabilities, by severity of disability and age group, 2001

Severity of disability	Number				Percent			
	65-74	75-84	85 and older	65 and older	65-74	75-84	85 and older	65 and older
Total	635,100	589,200	198,900	1,423,200	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Mild	250,800	200,900	52,800	504,300	35.6%	33.9%	24.1%	33.0%
Moderate	170,100	136,600	46,800	353,500	27.8%	23.6%	23.2%	25.3%
Severe	148,700	167,000	49,900	365,400	26.2%	28.7%	28.0%	27.5%
Very severe	65,700	84,900	49,500	200,000	10.4%	13.9%	24.8%	14.2%

Source: 2001 PALS

About 42% of seniors with disabilities have a severe or very severe disability, 25% have a moderate disability, and the remaining 33%, have a mild disability (see Table 6).

However, as age increases, so does the severity of the disability. Among seniors aged 85 years and older, 53% have a severe or very severe disability, compared to 37% for seniors aged 65 to 74 years.

Proportionately, fewer male seniors (at 37%) than female seniors (at 42%) are classified as having a severe of very severe level of disability.

Housing Characteristics of Seniors who are Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Almost equal numbers of seniors with and without disabilities are living in a household in core housing need; however 15% of seniors with disabilities are living in a household in core housing need compared to 11% of seniors without disabilities (see Table 7).

Ontario has the highest proportion (18%) of seniors with disabilities living in a household in core housing need in Canada, and Saskatchewan has the lowest proportion (8%).

Table 7 Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status, Canada and the provinces, 2001

	Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need			
	with disabilities		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada	217,500	15.3%	213,700	10.5%
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,600	15.9%	3,200	9.0%
Prince Edward Island	1,000	14.1%	*	*
Nova Scotia	9,800	17.0%	7,600	12.9%
New Brunswick	3,700	9.1%	*	*
Quebec	29,700	12.5%	53,200	8.9%
Ontario	110,300	18.0%	97,100	13.2%
Manitoba	7,600	12.5%	3,800	5.4%
Saskatchewan	4,400	7.9%	3,900	6.3%
Alberta	14,300	12.2%	9,600	6.6%
British Columbia	33,000	15.6%	32,000	11.7%

* Number suppressed because of sample size.
Source: 2001 PALS

On average, Canadian seniors with disabilities are about 1.5 times as likely to be living in a household in core housing need as seniors without disabilities. In Manitoba, seniors with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be living in a household in core housing need as those without disabilities, whereas in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia, seniors with disabilities are about 1.3 times as likely to be in core housing need.

Urban/Rural

The incidence of living in a household in core housing need is 17% in urban areas for seniors with disabilities, compared to 12% for seniors without disabilities (see Table 8). In rural areas, about 10 % of seniors with disabilities live in a household in core housing need, compared to 6% of seniors without disabilities.

Tenure

For seniors with disabilities, 9% live in dwellings that they or a member of their family owns and are in core housing need, compared to 32% of those who live in rented accommodations (see Table 9). Among seniors without disabilities, 6% living in owner-occupied dwellings live in core housing need, compared to 27% of those in rented dwellings.

Special Features for Access and Egress and Special Features within the Home

About 76% of seniors with disabilities living in a household in core housing need indicate that they do not use nor require any special features to assist them with their daily activities. Of the remaining 24% (51,700 seniors) who use or require special features, 79% have all the features they need, 14% have none of the features they need and 7% have some features but need others (see Table 10).

Table 8 Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and geographic location, 2001

	Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need			
	with disabilities		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	217,500	15.3%	213,700	10.5%
Urban	190,200	16.6%	192,700	11.6%
Rural	27,300	9.8%	21,000	5.6%

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 9 Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and tenure, 2001

Tenure	Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need			
	with disabilities		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	217,500	15.3%	213,700	10.5%
Owned by a member of the family	89,100	8.8%	91,400	5.8%
Rented	128,400	31.6%	122,300	27.0%

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 10 Use of, and need for, special features by persons aged 65 years and older with disabilities living in a household in core housing need, 2001

Use of, or need for, special features	Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need with a mobility/ agility disability	
	(#)	(%)
Total that use or need special features	51,700	100.0%
Use some special features and do not need any others	40,700	78.7%
Use some special features and need others	3,800	7.4%
Need some special features and have none	7,100	13.7%

Source: 2001 PALS

Among the 10,900 seniors with disabilities who live in a household in core housing need that have unmet needs for special features, 54% report an unmet need for grab bars or a bath lift in the bathroom, 26% need a ramp or street level entrance, and 26% require automatic or easy to open doors (see Table 11).

Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Persons Aged 65 Years and Older with Disabilities Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Age and Gender

Among the senior population living in a household in core housing need, females make up 73% of those with disabilities and 70% of those without disabilities (derived from Table 12). Male seniors with disabilities who are living in a household in core housing need are generally much younger than their female counterparts: 54% are aged 65 to 74 years, compared to only 37% of females (see Table 12).

Table 11 Number and percent of persons aged 65 years and older with disabilities living in a household in core housing need with unmet needs for special features, by type of feature, 2001

Unmet need for special features	Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need with a mobility/ agility disability	
	(#)	(%)
Total needing additional features	10,900	100.0%
Ramps or street level entrances	2,800	25.7%
Automatic or easy to open doors (includes lever handles)	2,800	25.7%
Widened doorways or hallways	*	*
Elevator or lift device	2,400	22.0%
Visual alarms or audio warning devices	*	*
Grab bars or a bath lift (in the bathroom)	5,900	54.1%
Lowered counters in the kitchen	*	*

* Number suppressed because of sample size.
Components add up to more than 100% since some individuals have more than one unmet need
Source: 2001 PALS

Table 12 Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status, sex and age group, 2001

Sex	Age group	Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need			
		with disabilities		without disabilities	
		(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Both sexes	65 years and older	217,500	100.0%	213,700	100.0%
	65 to 74	89,700	41.2%	125,300	58.6%
	75 to 84	92,700	42.6%	74,700	35.0%
	85 and older	35,000	16.1%	13,700	6.4%
Males	65 years and older	58,100	100.0%	64,600	100.0%
	65 to 74	31,200	53.7%	44,000	68.1%
	75 to 84	22,600	38.9%	*	*
	85 and older	4,200	7.2%	*	*
Females	65 years and older	159,400	100.0%	149,100	100.0%
	65 to 74	58,500	36.7%	81,300	54.5%
	75 to 84	70,100	44.0%	*	*
	85 and older	30,800	19.3%	*	*

* Number suppressed because of sample size.
Source: 2001 PALS

Living Arrangements

65% of seniors with disabilities living in core housing need live alone, compared to 67% of seniors without disabilities (see Table 13). For both seniors with and without disabilities, 21% live in families without children.

Table 13 Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and living arrangements, 2001

Living arrangements	Persons aged 65 and older who are living in a household in core housing need			
	with disabilities		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
All types of living arrangements	217,500	100.0%	213,700	100.0%
Living alone	141,400	65.0%	143,400	67.1%
Non family person, living with others	12,600	5.8%	10,500	4.9%
Lone parent family	12,500	5.7%	9,600	4.5%
Family without children	45,700	21.0%	44,700	20.9%
Family with children	5,400	2.5%	5,300	2.5%
Source: 2001 PALS				

Immigrant Status

Seniors with disabilities who are living in a household in core housing need are more likely to have immigrated to Canada (36%) than their peers without disabilities (33%) (see Table 14).

Table 14 Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and immigrant status

Immigrant status	Persons aged 65 and older who are living in a household in core housing need			
	with disabilities		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	217,500	100.0%	213,700	100.0%
Non immigrant	139,000	63.9%	143,400	67.1%
Immigrant	78,500	36.1%	70,300	32.9%
Source: 2001 PALS				

Within the senior population with disabilities who are living in a household in core housing need, the proportion who are immigrants varies with age: 34% of seniors aged 65 to 74 years, 39% of those 75 to 84 years and 35% of those 85 years and older are immigrants. Among seniors without disabilities who are living in a household in core housing need, the proportion who are immigrants decreases with age: 39% for seniors aged 65 to 74 years 32% for seniors aged 75 to 84 years and 23% for seniors aged 85 years and older.

Household Income

For the purpose of this analysis, the pre-tax household income of Canadian households with at least one person aged 65 years and older were assessed and divided into five equally sized income groups or quintiles ranging from low-income to high-income.

High Income:	$64,434 or more
Upper Income:	$40,736 - $64,433
Middle Income:	$28,082 - $40,735
Moderate Income:	$19,983 - $28,081
Low Income:	Less than $19,983

Regardless of disability status, the majority of seniors living in core housing need have relatively low incomes: 67% of seniors with disabilities are in households in the lowest income quintile (among those containing seniors), compared to 71% of seniors without disabilities (see text box and Table 15).

Table 15 Persons aged 65 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and household income quintile, 2001

Household income - Quintiles	Persons aged 65 and older who are living in a household in core housing need			
	with disabilities		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	217,500	100.0%	213,700	100.0%
High, Upper, Middle ($28,082 or more)	16,800	7.7%	14,100	6.6%
Moderate ($19,983 - $28,081)	56,000	25.8%	48,900	22.9%
Low (less than $19,983)	144,700	66.5%	150,600	70.5%
Source: 2001 PALS				

The percentage of seniors living in core housing need where the household income is in the lowest quintile increases with age regardless of disability status. About 64% of seniors with disabilities aged 65 to 74 years who are living in a household in core housing need report a household income in the lowest quintile, compared to 83% of such seniors aged 85 years and older. For seniors without disabilities living in a household in core housing need, 66% of those 65-74 and 88% of those 85 years and older report a household income in the lowest quintile.

Health Status

About 52% of seniors with disabilities living in a household in core housing need consider their general health to be good or very good (see Table 16).

Table 16 Persons aged 65 years and older with disabilities living in a household in core housing need, by type of disability and general health status, 2001

General Health status (self-assessed)	Persons with disabilities aged 65 and older who are living in a household in core housing need	
	(#)	(%)
Canada total	217,500	100.0%
Excellent	8,400	3.8%
Very good	44,300	20.4%
Good	68,000	31.3%
Fair	62,800	28.9%
Poor	24,700	11.4%
Not stated, refusal or don't know	9,300	4.2%

Source: 2001 PALS

Self reported health improves with age among seniors with disabilities who are living in a household in core housing need. While about 46% of seniors aged 65 to 74 years rate their general health as good or very good, this proportion increases to 52% for seniors 75 and 64% for seniors aged 85 years and older.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

General Characteristics of Seniors Aged 65 Years and Older with Disabilities

Geography

- 41% of Canadians aged 65 years and older report some level of disability, with the lowest rate in Quebec (29%) and the highest in Nova Scotia (50%).

Age and Gender

- The rate of disability increases with age and is higher for females than for males across senior age groups (65 to 74 years, 75 to 84 years and 85 years and older).
- The average age of seniors with disabilities is 77 years for females and 75 for males.

Living Arrangements

- 32% of seniors with disabilities live alone.
- The probability of living alone as a senior with disabilities increases with age.

Nature of Disabilities

- The two most common types of disability reported by seniors are mobility (78%) and agility (72%).
- The number of disabilities reported by seniors typically increases with age.

Severity of Disability

- 42% of seniors aged 65 years and older with disabilities are classified as having a severe or very severe level of disability.
- Severity of disability generally increases with age.

Housing Characteristics of Seniors with Disabilities Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Geography

- 15% of seniors with disabilities live in a household in core housing need. This proportion varies considerably among the provinces, with the highest (18%) reported in Ontario and the lowest (8%) reported in Saskatchewan.
- 17% of seniors with disabilities living in urban areas are living in core housing need; the corresponding proportion for rural areas is 10%.

Tenure

- 32% of seniors with disabilities who live in rented accommodation live in a household in core housing need, compared to 9% of those who live in a dwelling owned by a family member.

Need for Special Features for Access and Egress and Special Features within the Home

- Of the 51,700 seniors with disabilities living in a household in core housing who require special features, e.g., to enter or leave their residence, 21% do not have the features they need. The most common unmet need is for grab bars or a bath lift in the bathroom.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Seniors with Disabilities Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Age and Gender

- Females account for 73% of seniors with disabilities living in a household in core housing need.
- 54% of male seniors with disabilities living in a household in core housing need are aged 65 to 74 years and 8% are aged 85 years and older; among analogous females, 37% are aged 65 to 74 years and 19% are aged 85 years and older.

Living Arrangements

- 65% of seniors with disabilities who live in a household in core housing need live alone.
- The probability of seniors living alone in a household in core housing need increases with age.

Immigrant Status

- 36% of seniors with disabilities who live in a household in core housing need are immigrants to Canada.

Household Income

- About 67% of seniors with disabilities who live in a household in core housing need are in the lowest household income quintile among those containing seniors (i.e., had a household before-tax income of less than $19,983).

Health Status

- 52% of seniors with disabilities who live in a household in core housing need report a health status of good or very good.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Housing Research at CMHC

Under Part IX of the ***National Housing Act***, the Government of Canada provides funds to CMHC to conduct research into the social, economic and technical aspects of housing and related fields, and to undertake the publishing and distribution of the results of this research.

This fact sheet is one of a series intended to inform you of the nature and scope of CMHC's research.

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